Local Historic District Committee Meeting May 30, 2012

Members Present: May DeChillo, Warren Sawyer, Jer Jurma, Dana Anderson, Sylvia

Belkin

Town Liason Present: Pete Kane

Others in attendance: Joanne Paul, Richard Smith and Susan Munafo, Swampscott

Historical Commission; Cyrus Moulton, Lynn Item

Time: 7:10 p.m.

Location: Town Hall 1st floor conference room

Minutes of May 16th meeting approved.

Committee moved to do business first and then set out on planned walking tour to research possible areas to be included in the Local Historic District (see walking tour attached).

Dana Anderson noted that we are trying to investigate streetscapes from different points of view in order that we are able to plan on preserving what we still have left.

Joanne Paul asked how these streets were proposed. Mary responded that it was a random decision, based on what was close by and of a historic nature.

Pete noted that Chris Skelly of the Massachusetts Historical Commission is coming to work with our committee on Jun 27th and that Chris has offered to come earlier in the afternoon to walk Humphrey Street and environs. Maybe around 4 o'clock. Four committee members volunteered to meet with him.

It was also discussed that we could have three sub-committees walk various areas (of town) and then come back to a meeting and discuss what they saw. Swampscott residents would be welcome to attend with various subgroups. Mary noted: The outcome is as good as the process. We must do an impeccable process. If we come from a defensive point of view it saps our process. The press should know what we are doing. We can't control the outcome. We will have to run a campaign (to achieve our goal).

We have two audiences: town meeting and the people who live in the district. Mary noted that we need to determine the scope to be equitable. We need to look everywhere.

Jer remarked that it's good to know what the public considers historic in this town and to educate the people about what a historic district is. Pete suggested that we draft a press release at the next meeting with questions. Jer suggested that we use the DPW sign and robo calls.

At this point (about 7:40) the committee and others in attendance departed for the walk. Members returned at 8:50. And the discussion portion of the meeting resumed in the town hall first floor conference room.

Jer asked if it made sense to make Blaney/Rockland/King a district and also Humphrey Street? Mary said we need questions for Chris and that the committee should begin compiling a list for when he comes.

Committee agreed that only Jer Jurma would speak to the press and that members should refer press calls to him.

On June 13 we'll walk the Olmsted district. Members should call Mary the preceeding week with suggestions, ideas, etc. to be discussed at the June 13 meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 9:05.

Respectfully submitted by Sylvia Belkin, Secretary

